

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action. Claim 1-19 remain pending. In particular, Applicant has amended claim 1, has canceled claims 8, 11 and 12, and has added new claims 13-19. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

It is noted that on page 3 of the official action the Examiner indicates that claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103. However, this is inconsistent with the Examiner's marking of the disposition of the claims in the office action summary and also with the Examiner's comments on page 6 of the official action, in which the Examiner indicates that claims 8, 9 and 12 contain allowable subject matter. As such, it is assumed that the Examiner intended to reject claims 1-7 and 10-11 on page 3 and not the claims indicated.

With respect to the claim amendments made herein, the Examiner will note that the subject matter of allowable claim 8 has been incorporated into claim 1 and thereby it is submitted that claim 1, as amended, should now be in condition for formal allowance. Of course, the claims that depend upon claim 1 should also be in condition for allowance. Claim 8 has been canceled and claim 9 has been made dependent on claim 1.

New claims 13-19 are added by this response. Claim 13 basically corresponds to old claim 12 that the Examiner found to be allowable. Claims 14-19 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 13, and therefore claims 13-19 should now also be in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter in terms of originally filed claims 8, 9 and 12 and it is believed, that with the entry of this amendment, that this application should now be in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

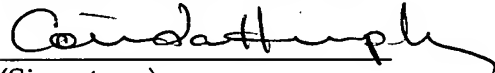
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Office with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents
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Corinda Humphrey

(Name of Person Signing)

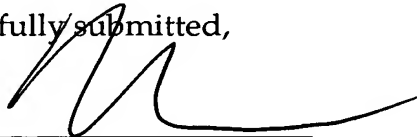


(Signature)

May 27, 2005

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



Richard P. Berg

Attorney for Applicants

Reg. No. 28,145

LADAS & PARRY

5670 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 2100

Los Angeles, California 90036

(323) 934-2300